



National Junior Ranger Day at Valley Forge National Historical Park: Frequently Asked Questions

What is National Junior Ranger Day?

Every day, new Junior Rangers are sworn-in at parks throughout the nation. National Junior Ranger Day is intended to recognize current and future Junior Rangers and to encourage young people to explore their National Parks. Junior Ranger Day is always during National Park Week and each park can choose to celebrate Junior Ranger Day differently; some parks plan special ceremonies, others provide discounted entry and others, like Valley Forge, plan a whole day of hands-on activities that highlight important park resources.

What should I bring with me?

While it's not required, it may be helpful to bring a clipboard, a writing utensil, and colored pencils or markers for the individual drawing activity. You may choose to pack water, snacks, or lunch as there are no full-service concessions on the premises.

Can I participate in Junior Ranger programs in other parks?

Currently, over 200 National Parks offer a Junior Ranger program. Additionally, the National Park Service offers Web Rangers for children that are interested in learning even more about National Parks or that cannot physically get to a park to complete a Junior Ranger program on-site. Information about Junior Rangers and Web Rangers can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger.cfm>.

Where is graduation?

Graduation will begin promptly at **2:30** in front of the main Visitor Center entrance, in the large grassy oval with the flag pole. A park ranger will meet you there to lead the Junior Ranger oath. In the event of unfavorable weather, graduation will be moved inside the Education Center. A ranger will direct you to the new graduation location if necessary.

How do I get my badge at the end of the day?

Go to the Junior Ranger information table (where you got your maps and information at the beginning of the day) in the Visitor Center and present your completed Junior Ranger activity pages to receive your badge. If you plan to attend graduation, you can pick up your badge before or immediately after graduation. New Junior Rangers receive 10% off all National Park Service* merchandise when they show their Junior Ranger Badge at checkout.

*Select merchandise on display in the store by the National Park Week sign

Can I still get my badge if I can't stay for graduation?

If you cannot stay for graduation, you can pick up your badge by presenting your completed Junior Ranger activity page at the Junior Ranger information table anytime throughout the event.

Where are the restrooms?

Restrooms are located inside the Visitor Center and in the parking area at Washington's Headquarters. Additional restrooms are also located throughout the park and these are marked on the general Valley Forge park map.

How many hours can I credit towards my Scout Ranger merit badge?

Scout Rangers can credit 4 hours towards completion of their Scout Ranger merit badge by participating in Jr. Ranger Day. Scout Rangers earn their badge after completing 10 hours of education and/or volunteer activities in National Parks. Valley Forge offers numerous volunteer opportunities and education programs for scouts to earn their remaining 6 credit hours. Contact Amy Ruhe at 610-783-1036 for additional information about Scout Ranger requirements, to schedule additional credit hours or to collect your badge.

How else can I get involved in the park?

There are many ways for you to get involved with Valley Forge National Park. Volunteer opportunities are posted at <http://www.nps.gov/vafo/supportyourpark/index.htm> and applications are currently being accepted for trails clean-ups, invasive species removal, park watch and visitor services. Also, consider joining the park friends group or check out the calendar of events on the park website www.nps.gov/vafo.

Valley Forge offers a number of children's programs throughout the year. This summer, a kids adventure camp will be offered in partnership with the Franklin Institute and will combine the fascinating history and natural wonders in Valley Forge with the Franklin Institute's mission of scientific exploration. Information on summer camp and other children's activities can be found on the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/vafo/forkids/index.htm>.

Stay connected to Valley Forge NHP and get information on park programs and events throughout the year:



Facebook

facebook.com/ValleyForgeNHP



Twitter

[@ValleyForgeNHP](https://twitter.com/ValleyForgeNHP)



Flickr

flickr.com/photos/valleyforgenationalpark



Park Website

nps.gov/vafo